

# PETA SEARLE

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**Class grouping:**

whole class and individuals

**Time:**

60-90 minutes

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the achievements of acclaimed AFL coach Ms Peta Searle prior to visiting the *Her Place* exhibition. Students will respond to visual images of both genders playing sport and explore the myths and facts about female representation in sport. Students will then consider the challenges faced by women coaching AFL, a predominantly male sport. To conclude, students will have the opportunity to write speeches and research women's AFL.

**Activities:**

- 1. See, Think, Wonder visual thinking task comparing genders in sport.**
- 2. Fact or Myth women in sport exercise and class discussion.**
- 3. Discussion and brainstorm on challenges for females in the AFL.**
- 4. Extension Tasks: Creative speeches or research task.**

**Preparation and Materials:**

1. Print or email students the See, Think, Wonder visual thinking task.
2. Access a projector with sound to show students the short clip on women in AFL; this activity can be left out if there is no access to a projector.
3. Print or email students the Fact or Myth exercise.
4. Paper and pens for brainstorm and discussions.
5. Access to internet for extension tasks.

## Procedure:

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### Activity 1

#### **See, Think, Wonder Women in AFL visual thinking task**

Provide students with a copy of the See, Think, Wonder visual task.

1. Provide the students with image one and ask them to look closely at it before responding. Ask students to imagine they are the player holding the ball in the image and then respond to the See, Think, Wonder statements.
2. Ask students to complete the speech bubbles. Encourage students to think carefully about their responses.
3. Follow the same procedure for image two.
4. Once students have completed both images, invite students to share their responses with the class. Encourage students to discuss differences and similarities in their responses and the reasons for their responses.
5. Show students the short clip on women playing AFL. Discuss with students their responses to the clip. Has watching this clip made them think differently about women playing AFL? How has watching this clip made them feel?

#### **Link to clips (scroll down until you reach the clips):**

<http://www.theage.com.au/afl/afl-news/st-kilda-assistant-coach-peta-searle-calls-for-10-teams-in-womens-afl-competition-20160511-gosq1h.html>

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## Activity 2

### **Fact or Myth Women in Sport learning task**

In this activity, students have to individually or in a group respond to the statements about females in sport. Students respond based on their opinions and ideas. Reassure students that they are not expected to know the answers.

1. Print the Fact or Myth document and distribute this handout to students.
2. Students complete the handout and then discuss responses as a class.
3. Reveal to students the correct answers and encourage class discussion using some of the following questions:
  - What did these statements make you think about?
  - How did these statements make you feel?
  - What fact most surprised you and why?
  - Summarise your response to this activity in three words. Why did you select these words?
  - How do you think these statements connect with concerns about gender equality?

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## Activity 3

### **Challenges faced by women participating in AFL**

In this activity, students consider the challenges faced by women coaching or participating in the AFL, a predominantly male sport.

Read or write on the board the following information about Peta Searle.

Peta Searle has been involved in AFL for 20 years. Appointed the Development Coach for the St Kilda Football Club in 2014, she became the first female coach in the AFL.

1. Ask students to brainstorm at least six challenges they think Peta Searle or women AFL players face trying to establish a career in AFL.
2. Encourage students to discuss their responses and draw up a central list of challenges on the board.

3. For every challenge that students have identified, ask them to develop a solution or strategy to combat and overcome this challenge.
4. Ask students for a realistic timeframe for each strategy. Do they think a solution is possible in the next two years? Why or why not?

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### **Extension activities: Women in AFL.**

1. Creative response. Imagine you are Peta Searle and St Kilda has made the AFL grand final. Write a speech to address the players before the match commences.
2. Creative/persuasive responses. Imagine you are lobbying the sports minister for funding for women's AFL. Write a speech or a letter attempting to persuade the minister for more funding.
3. Research the success of the first women's AFL series and produce a report that explores the highlights of the first season.
4. Watch the following documentary on women in AFL and ask students to write either a factual report based on new information they have learnt, or a newspaper article promoting women participating in AFL.

#### **Documentary link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmTE-qyUwBk>



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